

Citizen science in geoheritage: who participates in community geosite assessments?

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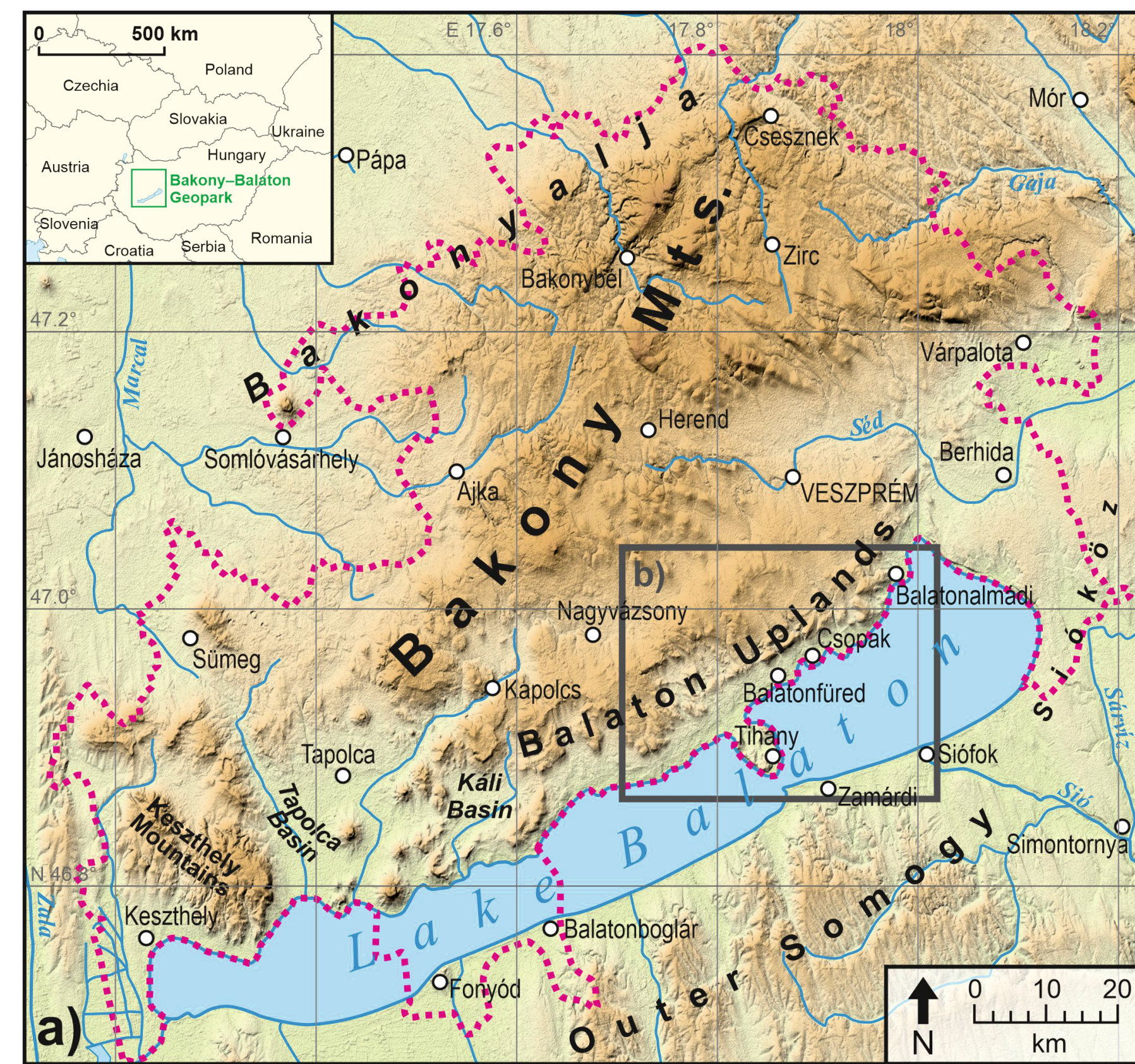
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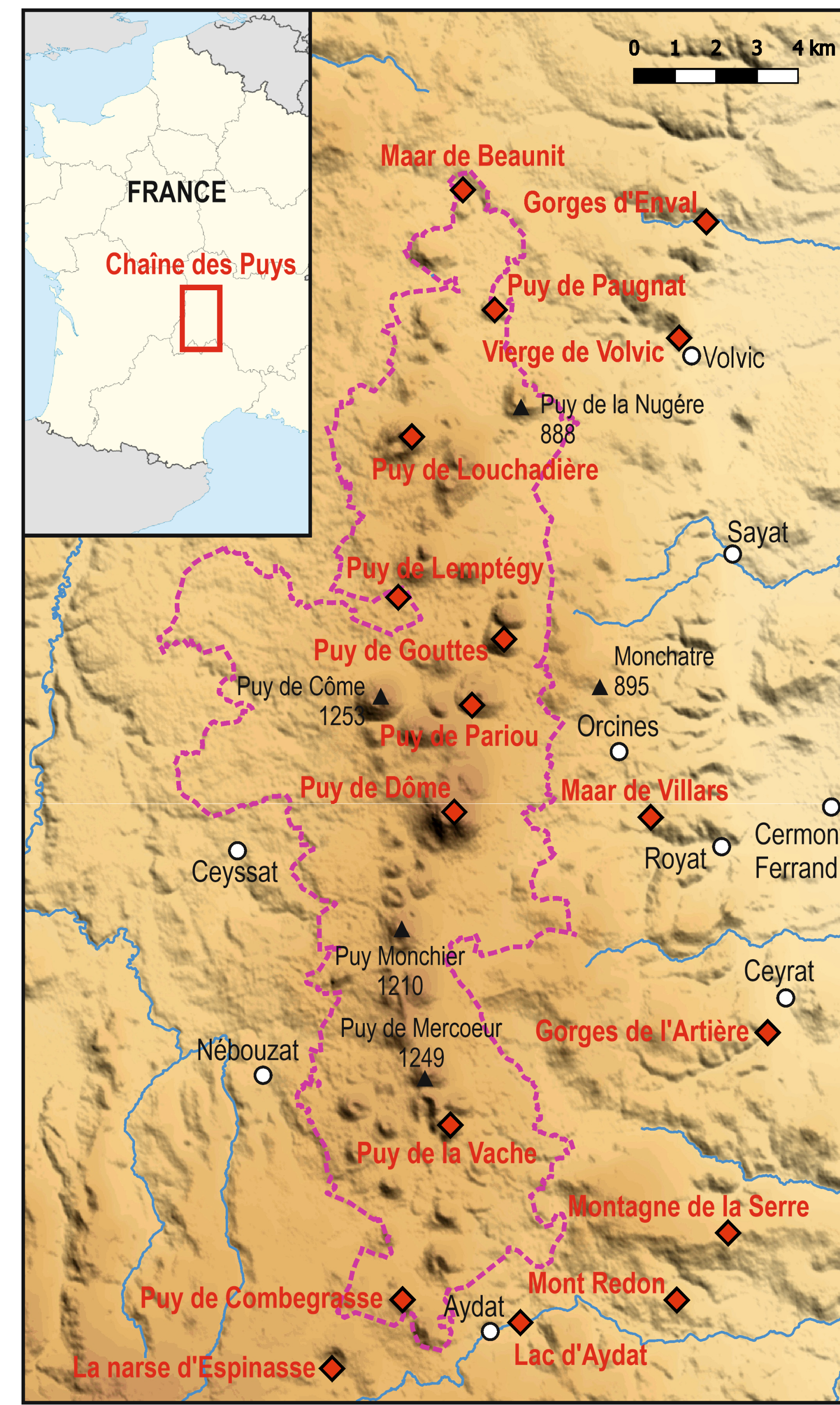


What did we do?

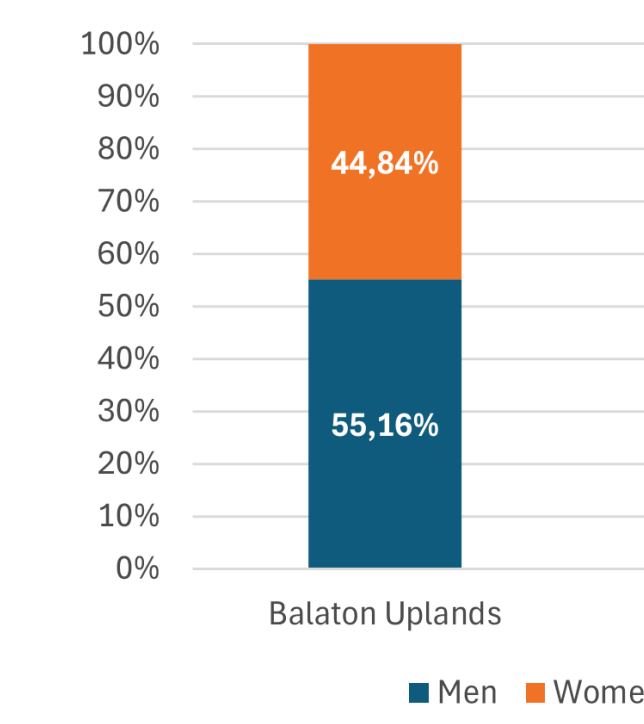
One of the citizen science opportunities in geoheritage is to **include visitor opinions in geosite assessment**. Since the introduction of the Modified Geosite Assessment Model (Tomić & Božić, 2014), some publications have included geotourists' opinions about scientific and infrastructural criteria in the evaluation using **online questionnaires** (Pál & Albert, 2020; Vereb, 2020). These can be filled in with the help of **QR codes placed in the field**.

A few years ago, we designated two areas – the **Chaine des Puys in France** and the **Balaton Uplands in Hungary** – with several geosites to analyse the modifying effect of visitor involvement in geosite assessment. Apart from the assessment results, the demographic and professional composition of questionnaire fillers can also be examined.

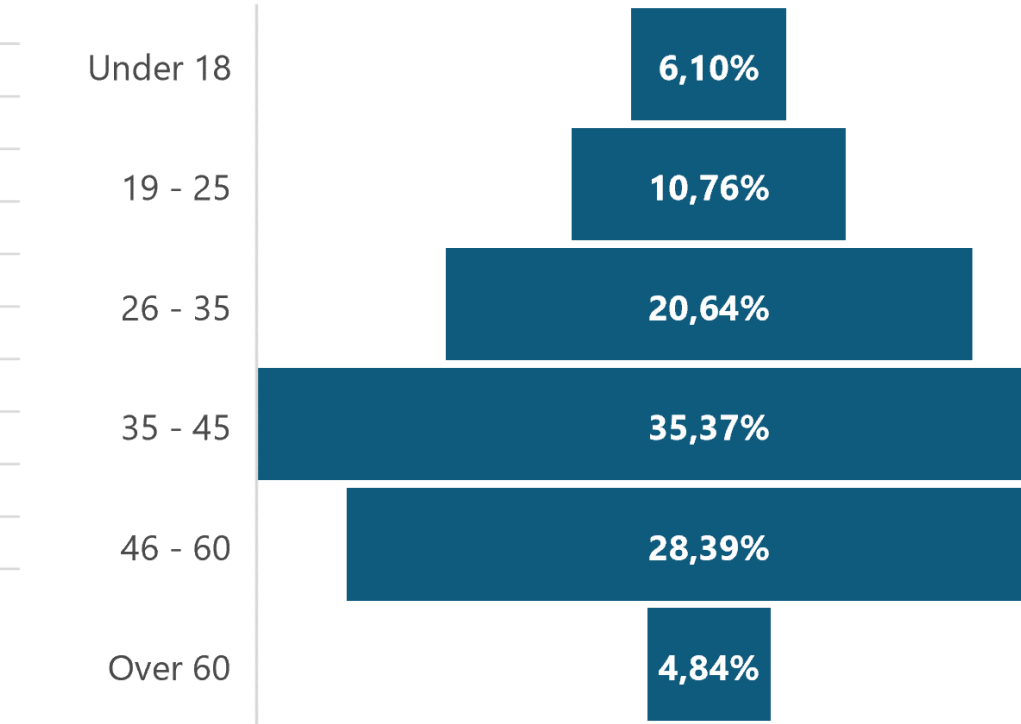
In our questionnaire, we collected data at each site on each participant's **age, gender, education, profession in geosciences or tourism, distance of residence, interest in geosciences and geoheritage, and hiking frequency**. We compared the data of the Hungarian (1123) and French (321) completions.



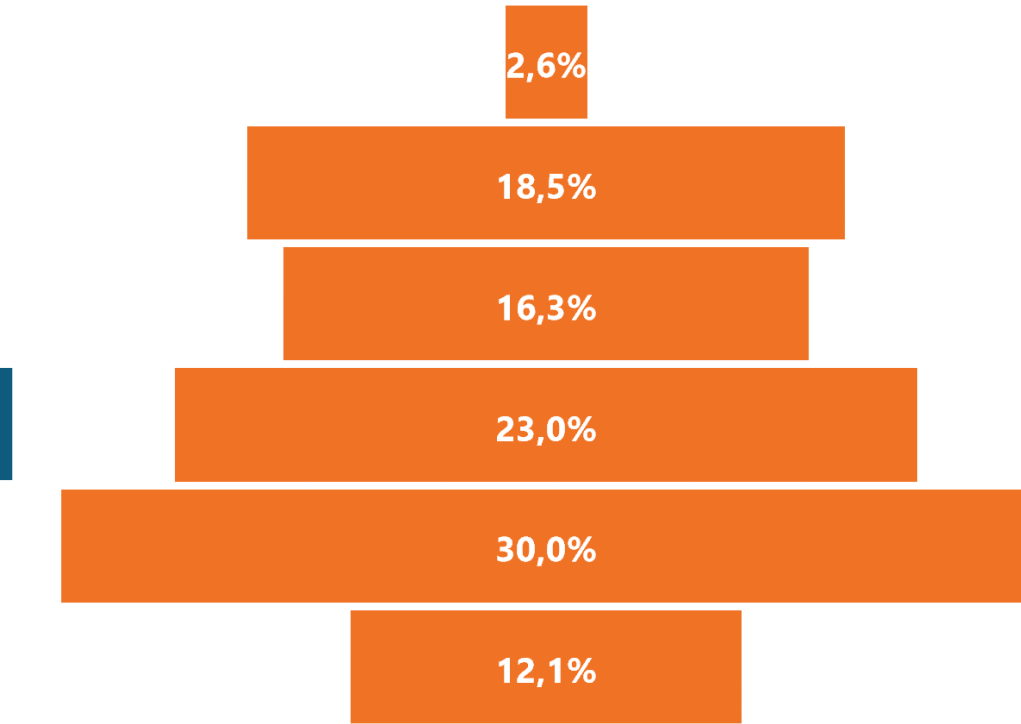
Sex distribution



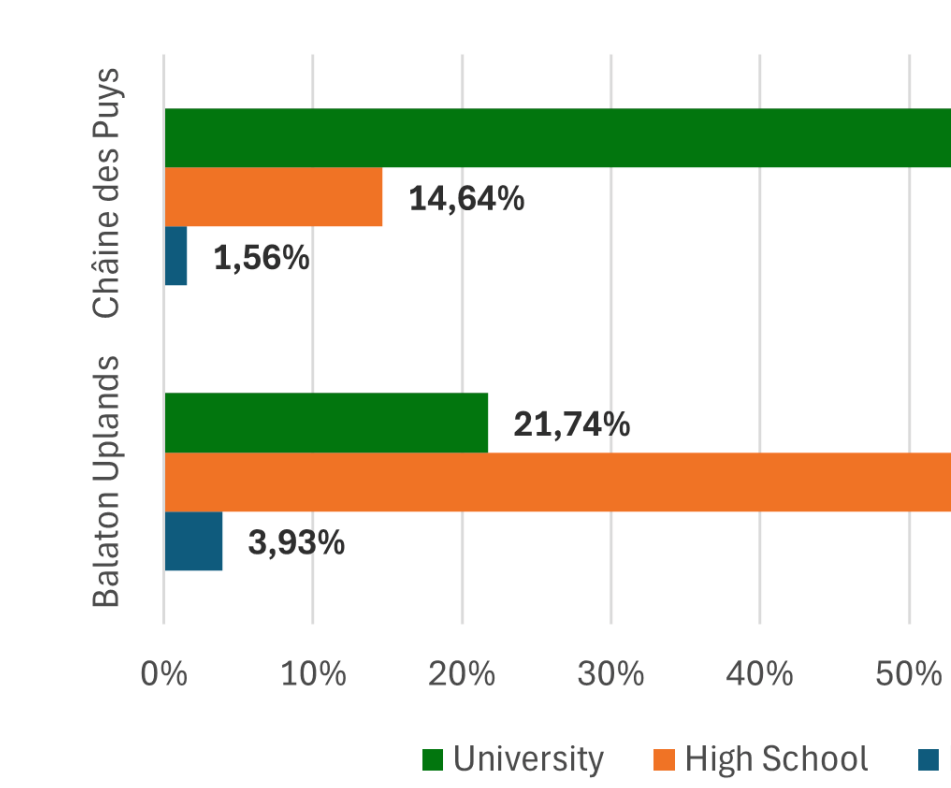
Age distribution - Balaton Uplands



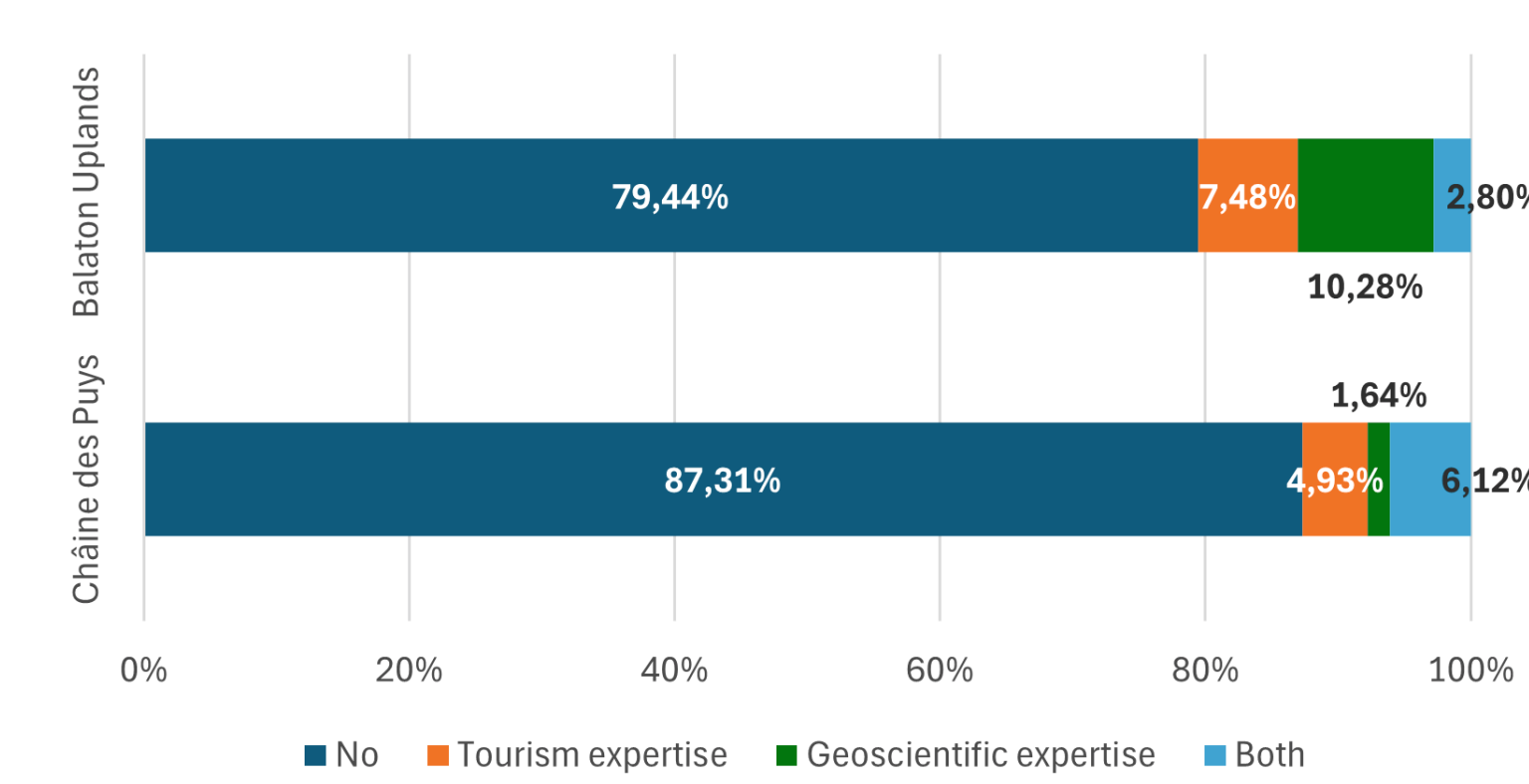
Age distribution - Chaine des Puys



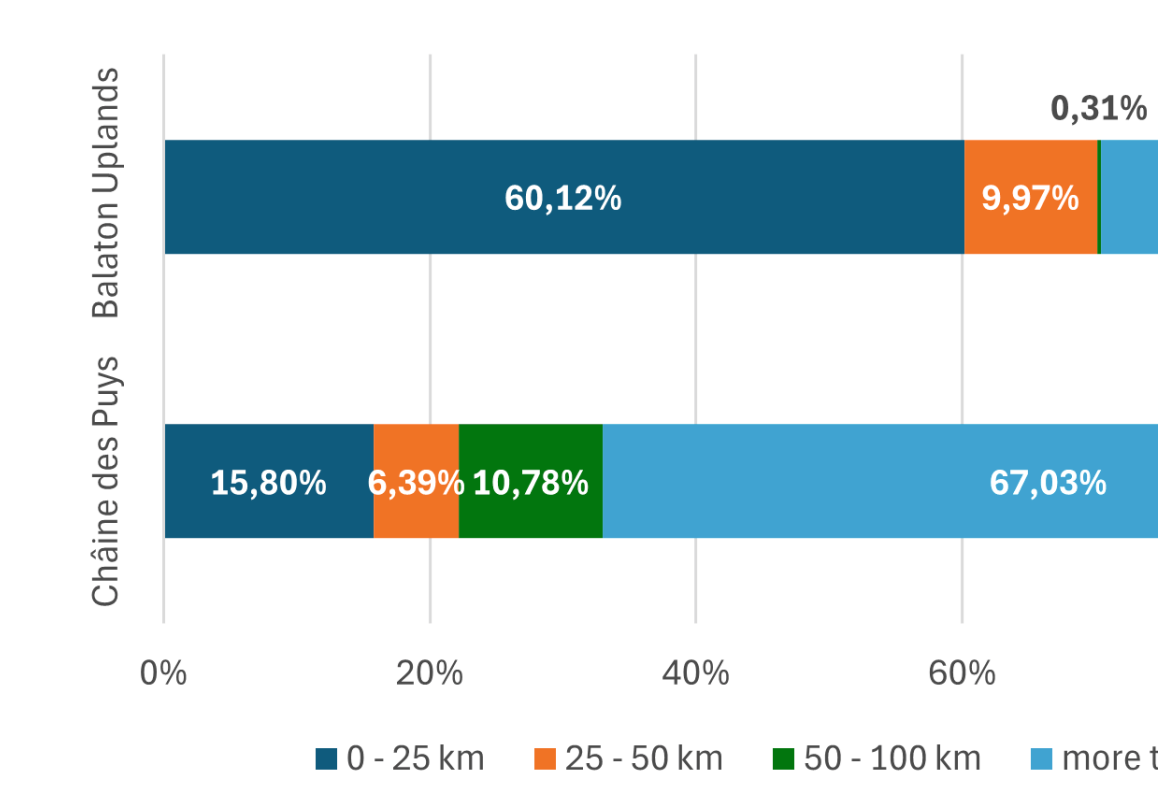
Education



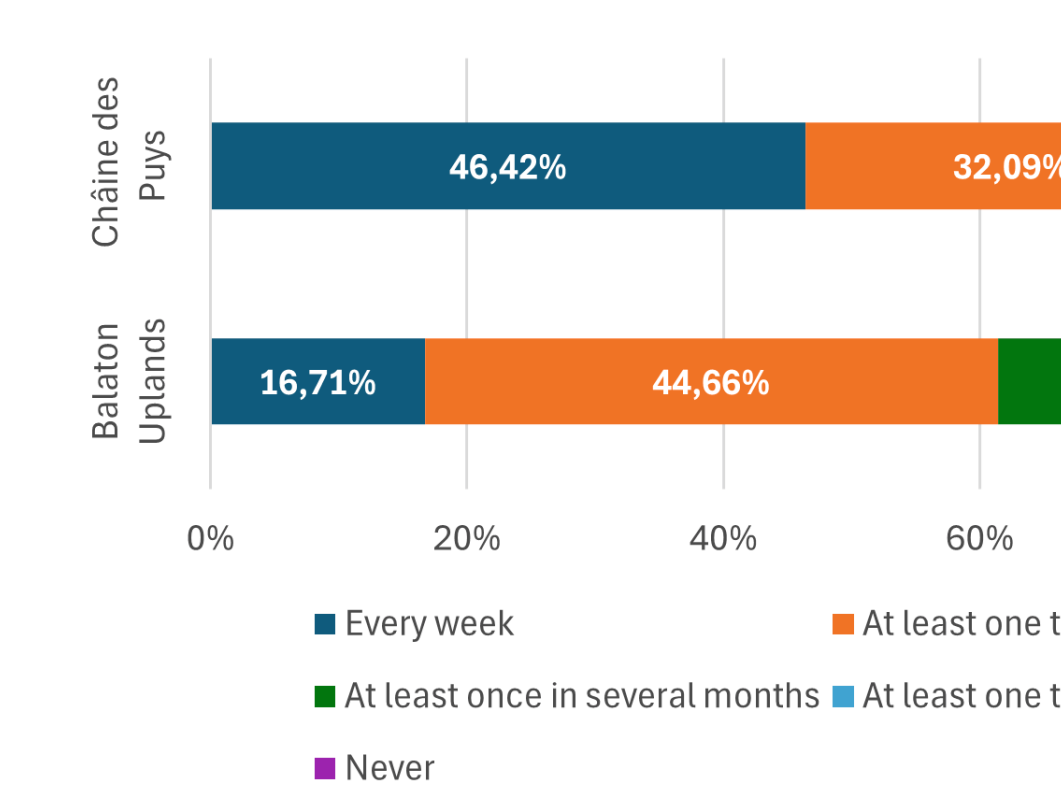
Geotourism or tourism expertise



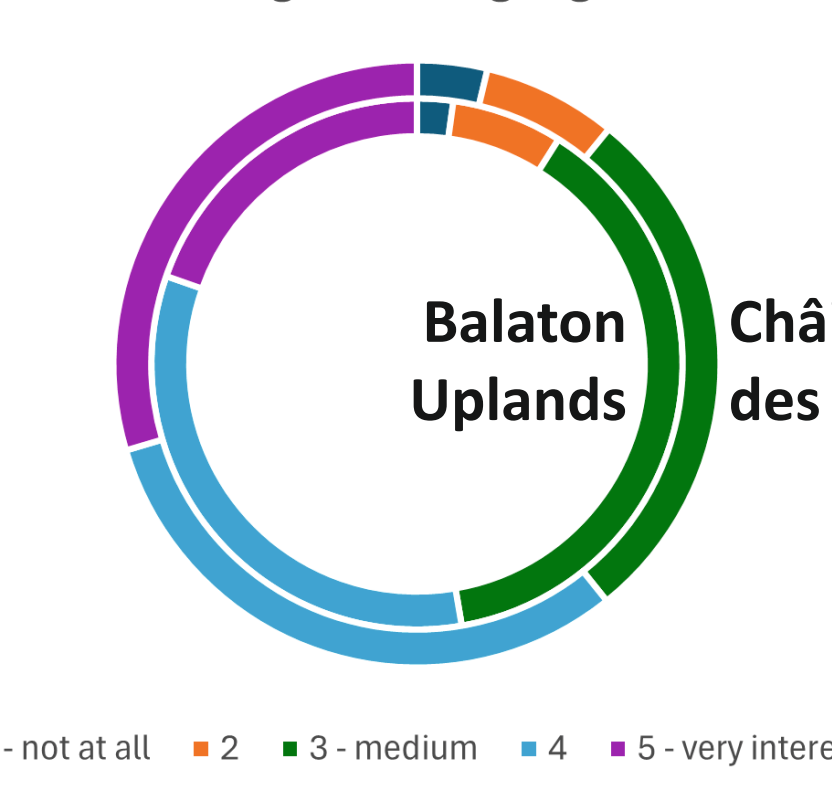
Home distance from the site



Frequency of hiking



Interest for geoheritage, geotourism



Final comparison

Balaton Uplands vs **Chaine des Puys**

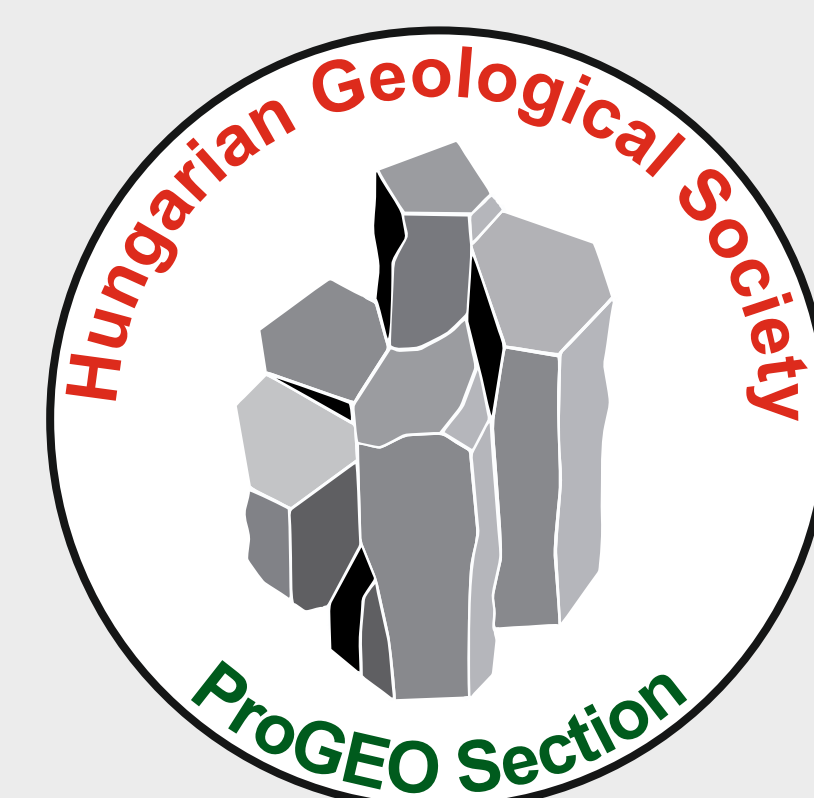
There is not much difference between the two areas, but the deviation from the balance is opposite.

Younger generations hike more frequently in the Chaine des Puys, but the overall data shows that the average age of hikers is also higher there.

The level of education and the interest for geosciences and geotourism have much higher values in the Chaine des Puys.

People tendentially hike more in the Chaine des Puys than in the Balaton Uplands - but they travelled more in Hungary.

But why?



References

Pál, M., & Albert, G. (2021). Examining the Spatial Variability of Geosite Assessment and Its Relevance in Geosite Management. *Geoheritage*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/S12371-020-00528-6>

Tomić, N., & Božić, S. (2014). A modified Geosite Assessment Model (M-GAM) and its Application on the Lazar Canyon area (Serbia). *Int. J. Environ. Res.*, 8(4), 1041–1052.

Vereb, V. (2020). Geoheritage and resilience. Selected studies of volcanic geoheritage area from different geographical environments and different levels of protection. <https://doi.org/10.15476/ELTE.2020.154>

Abstract QR:

